

# Agricultural Statistics by ISU Extension Area

From the 1992 and 2002  
Census of Agriculture

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## **Points of Interest**

- Southeast counted 160 more farms in 2002 using new Agricultural Census definitions and methodology.
- Northwest counted 3,193 fewer farms in 2002 using new Agricultural Census definitions and methodology.
- Statewide the number of farms with beef cows fell by 23% during this ten-year period.
- Southeast and Southwest count the highest number of farms with beef cows respectively.
- Statewide the number of farms with fed cattle sold fell by 38% during this ten-year period.
- Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest count the highest number of farms with fed cattle sold respectively.
- Statewide the number of farms with hogs/pigs fell by 68% during this ten-year period.
- Northwest, Northeast, and Southeast count the highest number of farms with hogs/pigs respectively.
- Statewide the number of farms with milk cows fell by 20% during this ten-year period.
- Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest count the highest number of farms with milk cows respectively.
- Northwest counted significant increases of livestock inventories per farm over the 10 year period.
- Statewide the number of farmers over the age of 65 grew by 20% during this ten-year period.
- Statewide the number of farmers under the age of 35 fell by 60% during this ten-year period.
- Northwest and Northeast count a higher proportion of younger farmers.
- Southwest, Southeast, and Central count a higher proportion of older farmers.
- Northwest, Northeast, and Central have the highest proportion of net cash farm income in 2002 respectively.

## Definitions:

**Number of Farms.** For the purpose of the Census of Agriculture, a farm is any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The \$1,000 value is not adjusted for inflation.

For the 1997 and 2002 census, operations receiving \$1,000 or more in Federal government payments were counted as farms, even if they had no sales and otherwise lacked the potential to have \$1,000 or more in sales.

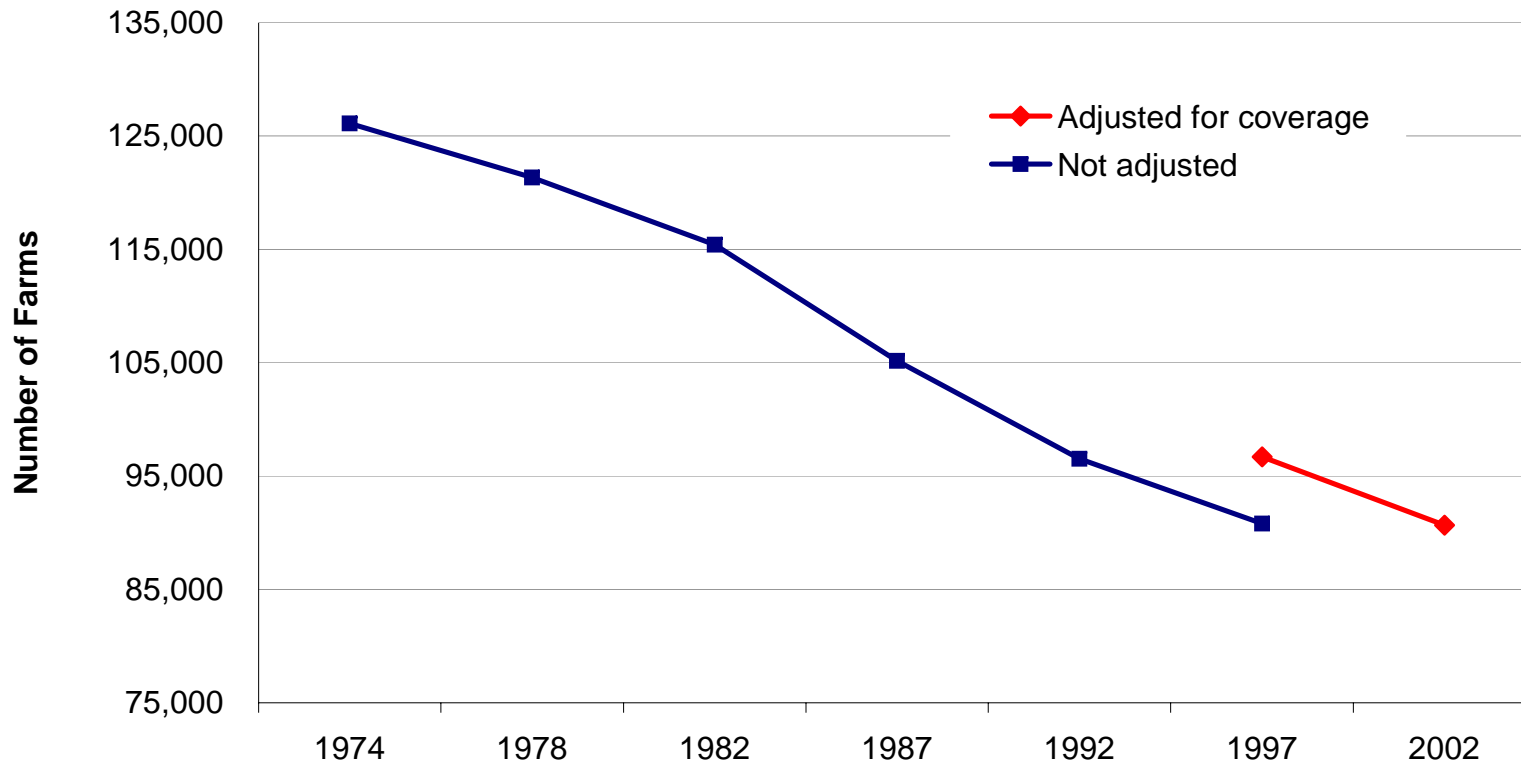
If a place does not have \$1,000 in sales, a “point system” assigns dollar values for acres of various crops and head of various livestock species to estimate a normal level of sales. Point farms are farms with fewer than \$1,000 in sales during 2002 but have points worth at least \$1,000. Point farms tend to be very small. Some, however, may normally have large sales, but experience low sales in a particular year due to bad weather, disease, changes in marketing strategies, or other factors. The census of agriculture uses the point system to help identify farms meeting the current definition. For 2002, a farm that had \$500 point value and \$500 in government payments is considered a farm. This would not have been true for the 1997 census. For farms with production contracts, the value of the commodities produced is used, not the amount of the fees they receive.

**Net cash farm income of the operation.** This concept is derived by subtracting total farm and farm-related expenses from total sales, government payments, and other farm-related income. Net cash farm income of the operation includes the value of commodities produced under contract by the contract growers.

## Notes:

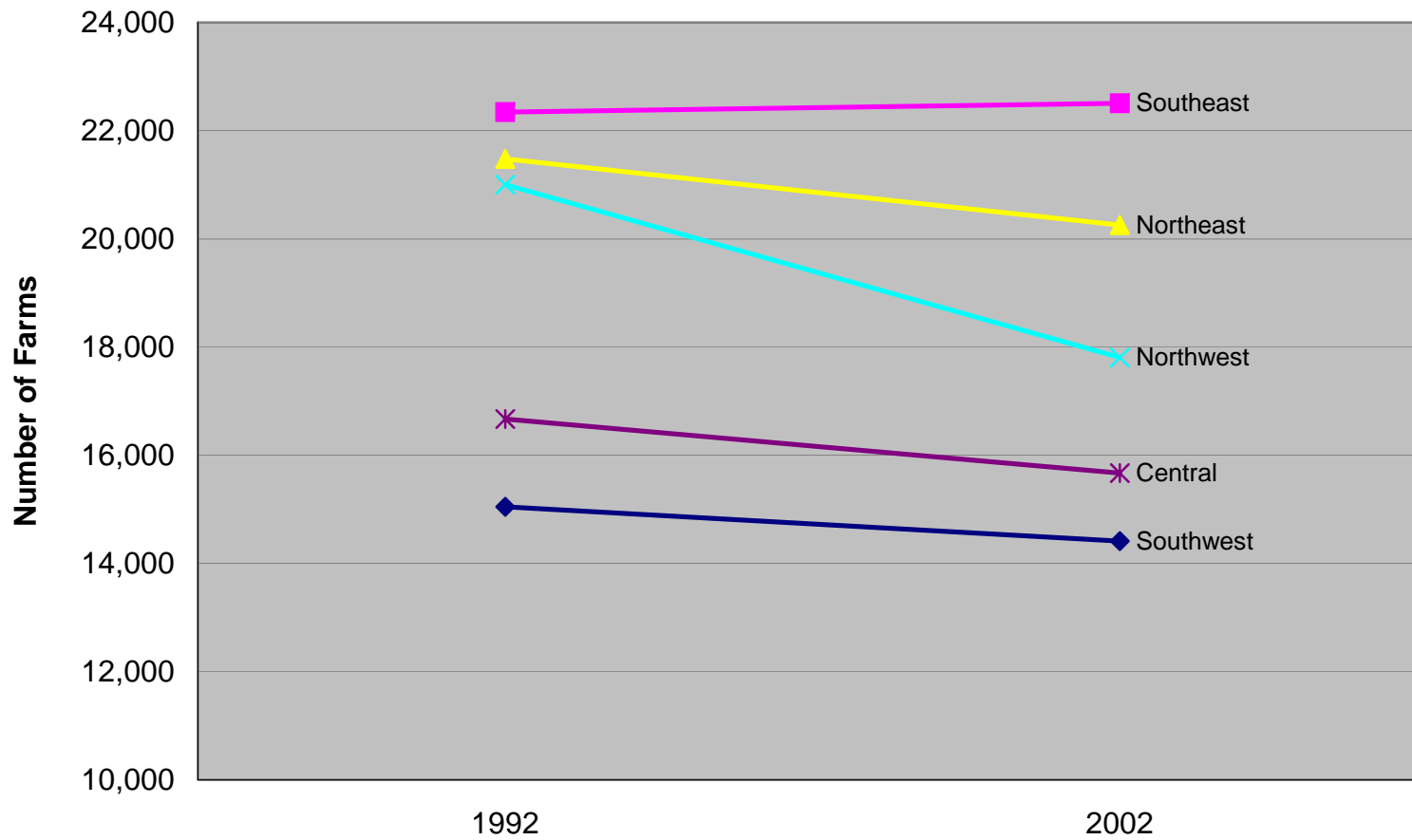
1. Due to the change in definition used for farms between the 1992 and 2002 Census periods, direct comparisons of values across time can be misleading (see above definition for number of farms). Caution should be used when making such comparisons.
2. Extension region totals for hog/pig inventories and milk cow inventories may not add to state totals. Data were suppressed for some counties.

## Number of Farms in Iowa, by Census Year



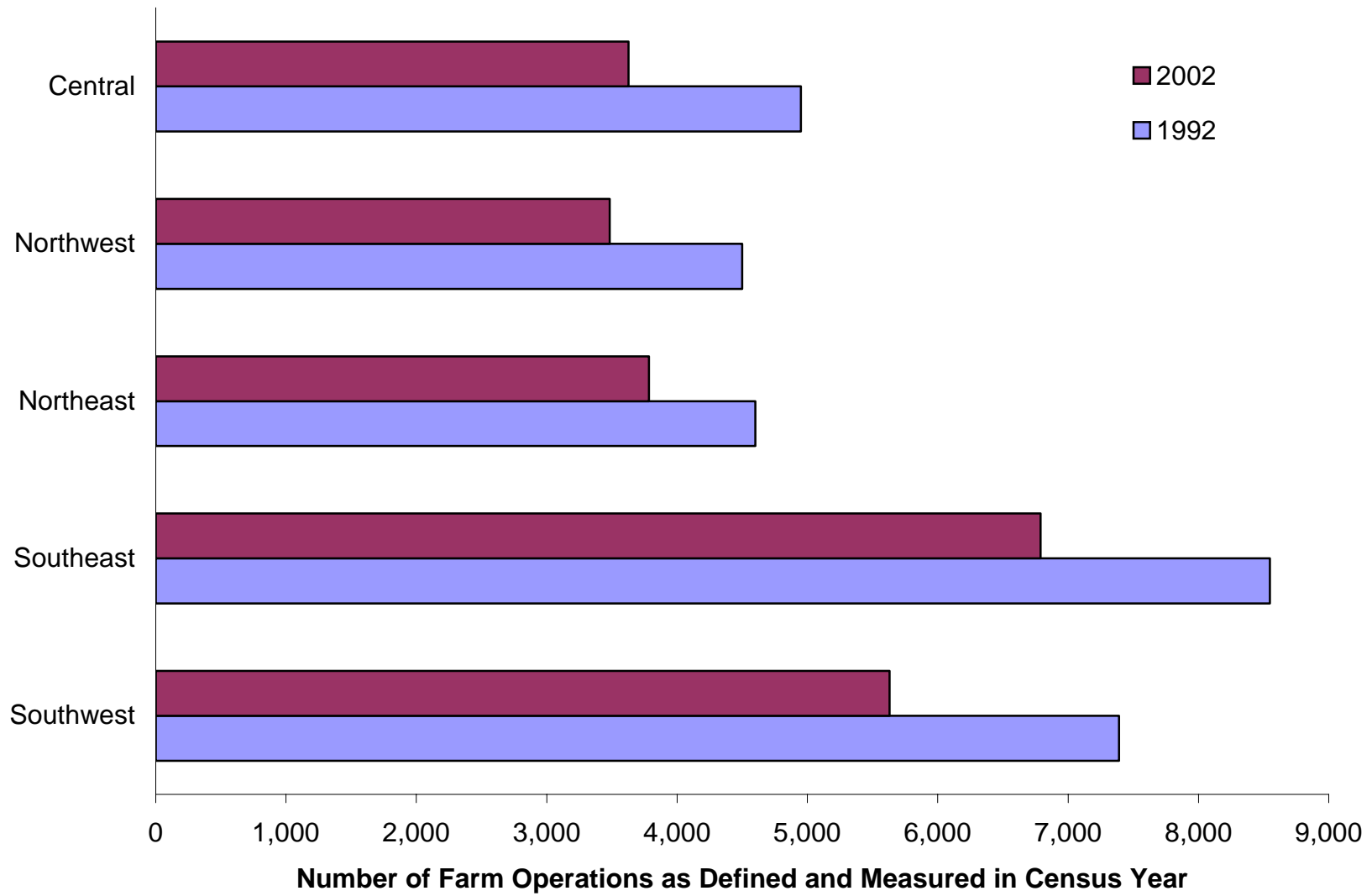
Changes in data collection and estimation methodology (2002) and changes in the definition of farms (1997) should be noted when comparing data from earlier Agricultural Census periods. Prior to the 2002 Census, data were collected using a list of known farm operations. In 2002, new methodology was implemented to measure and adjust for incompleteness of the list. Data for 1997 were adjusted to provide a measure of change for the 1997-2002 period. Beginning with the 1997 Census, the definition of farms became more inclusive of smaller operations. Both changes tend to inflate the number of farm operations compared to earlier Census periods.

## Number of Farms by Region: 1992 vs. 2002 Census of Agriculture\*

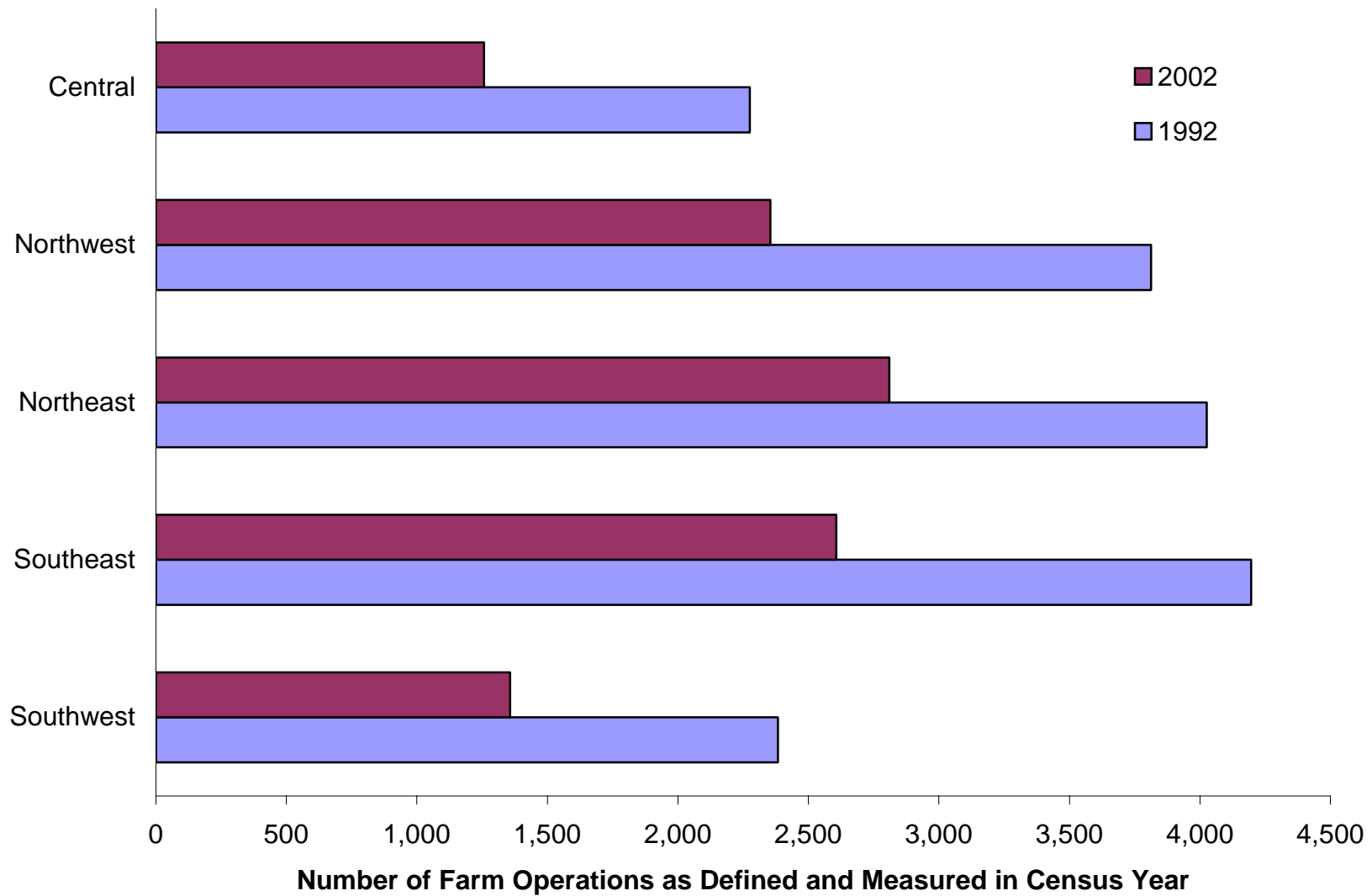


\* Due to changes in Agricultural Census definitions and methodology, comparisons between 1992 and 2002 values should be interpreted with caution.

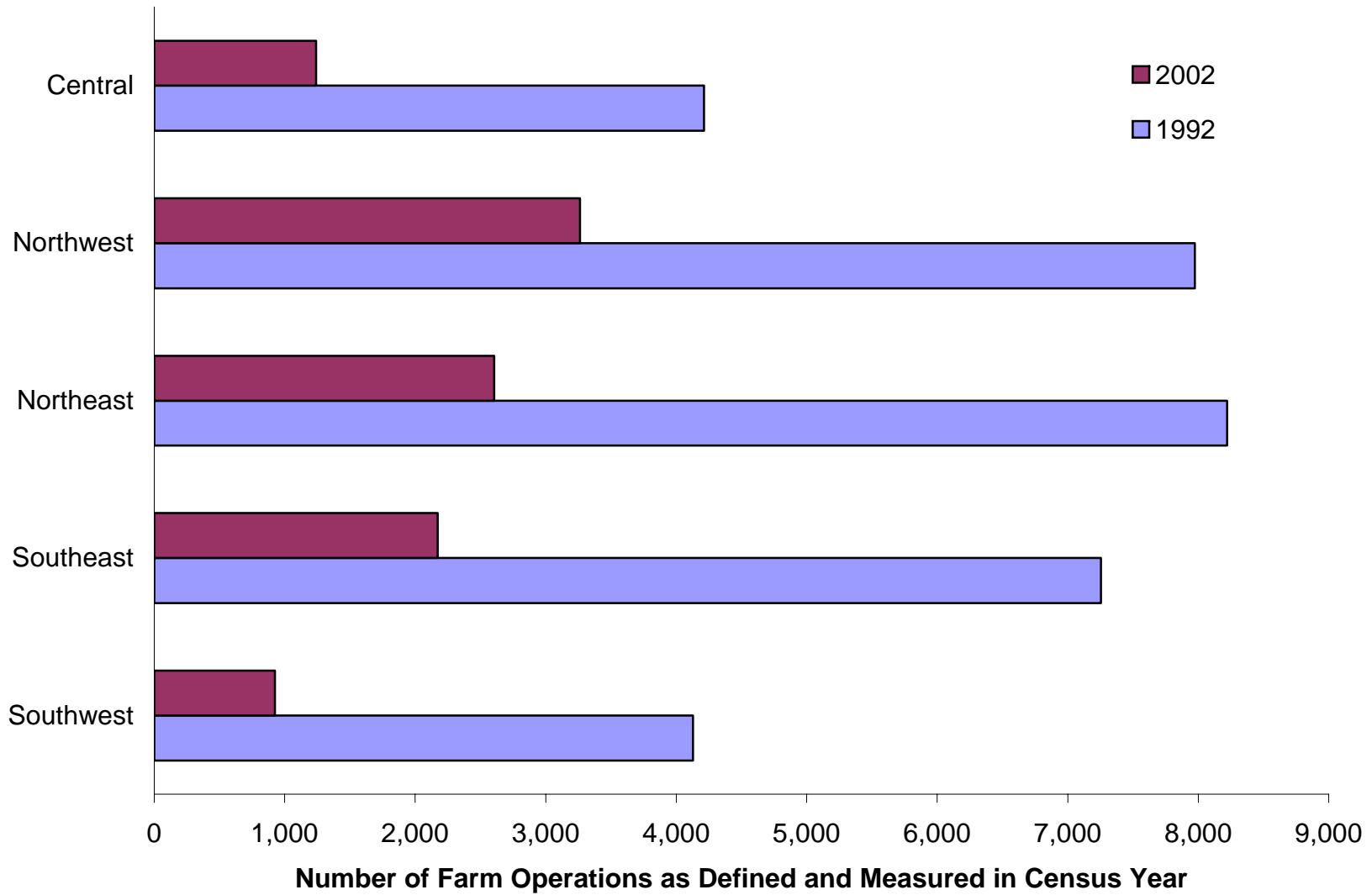
## Number of Farms With Beef Cows



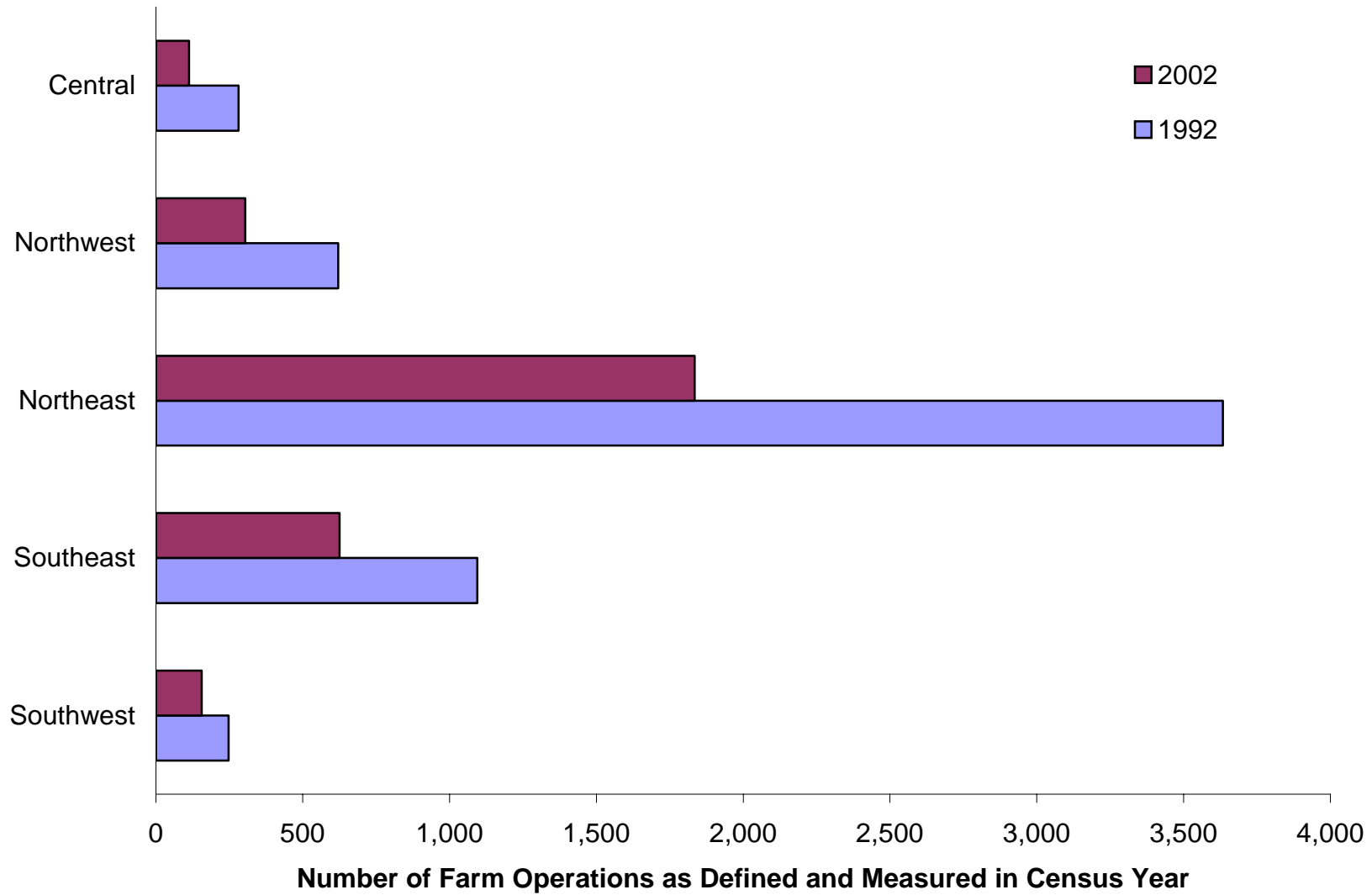
## Number of Farms With Sales of Fed Cattle



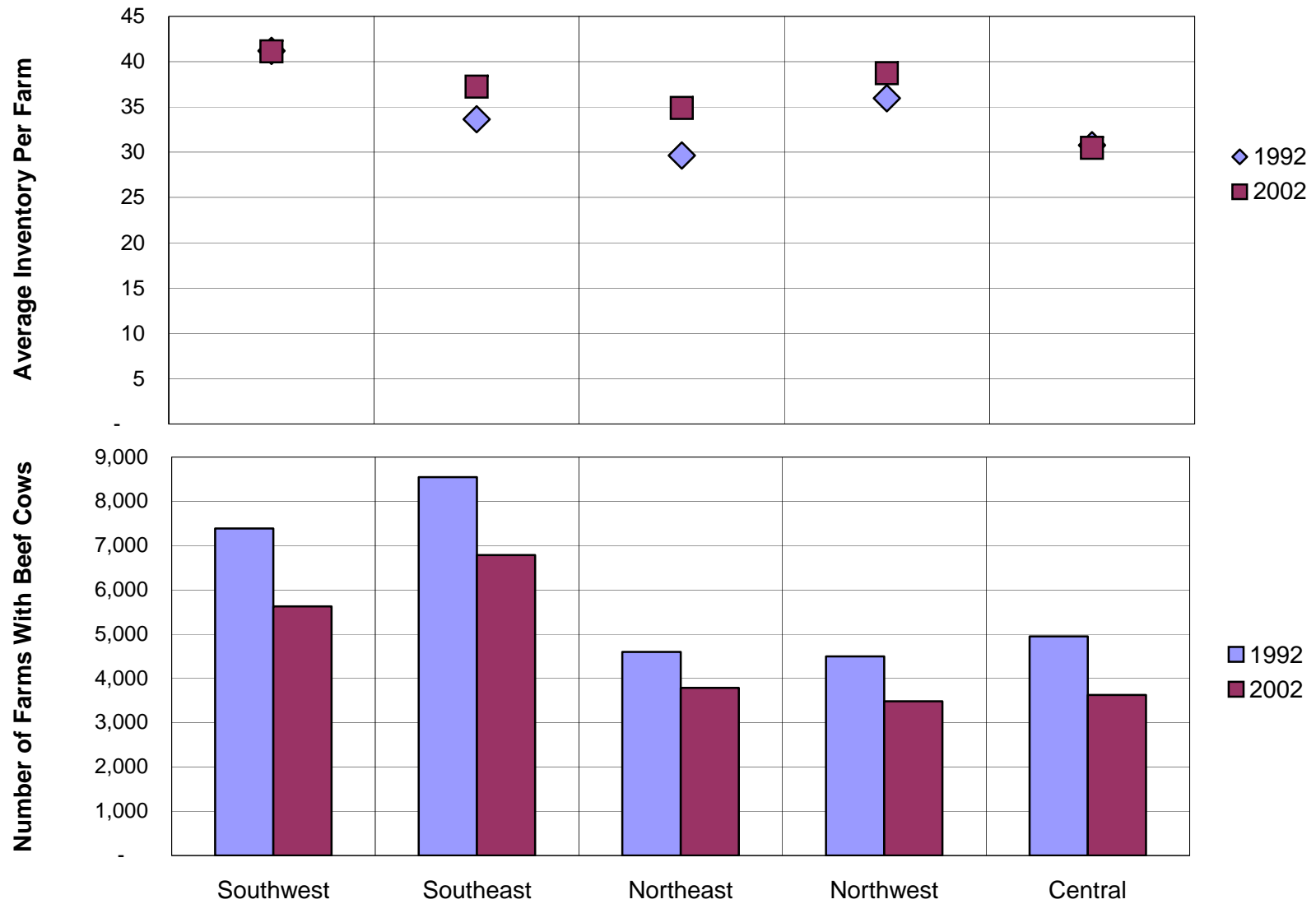
## Number of Farms With Hogs/Pigs



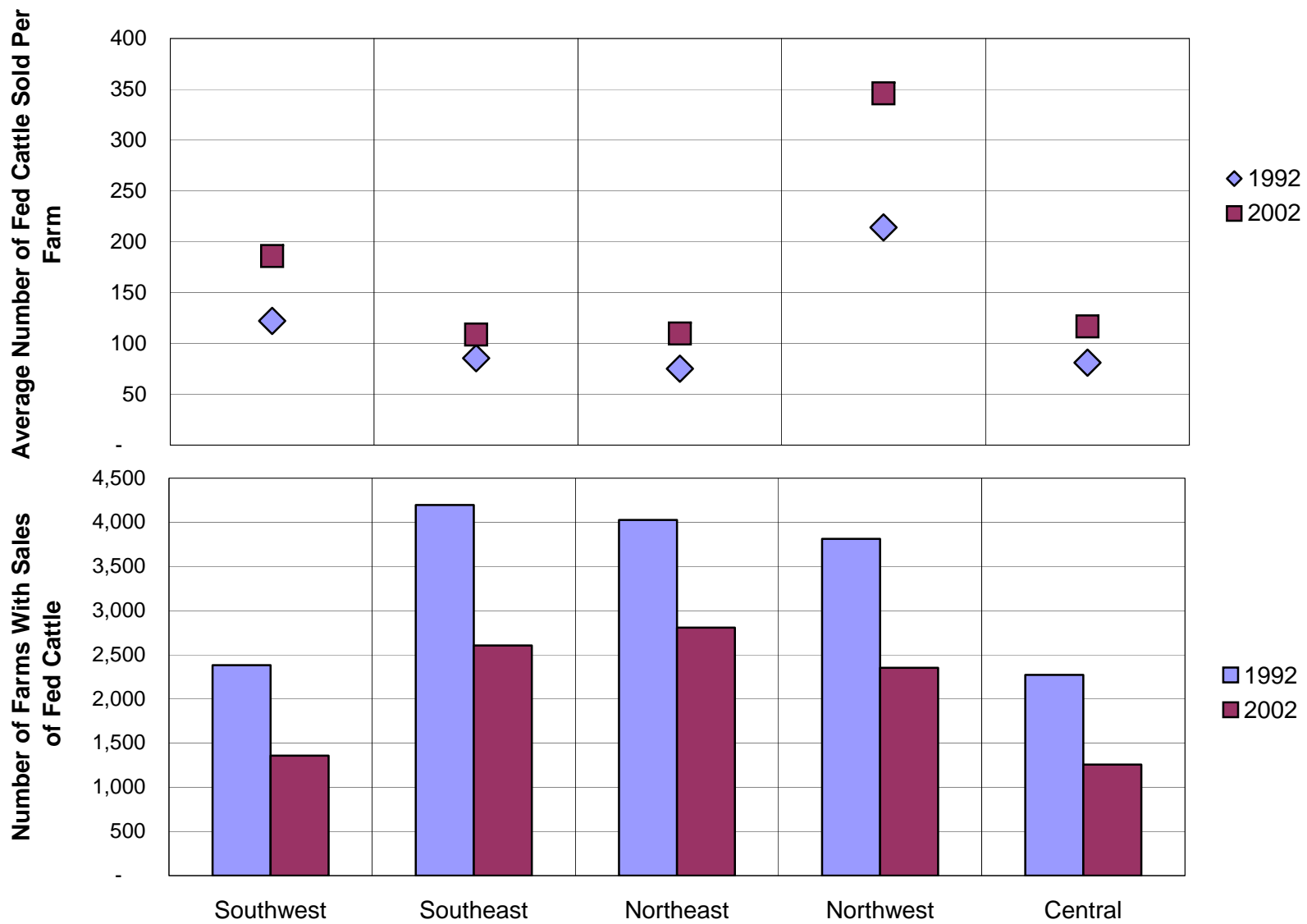
## Number of Farms With Milk Cows



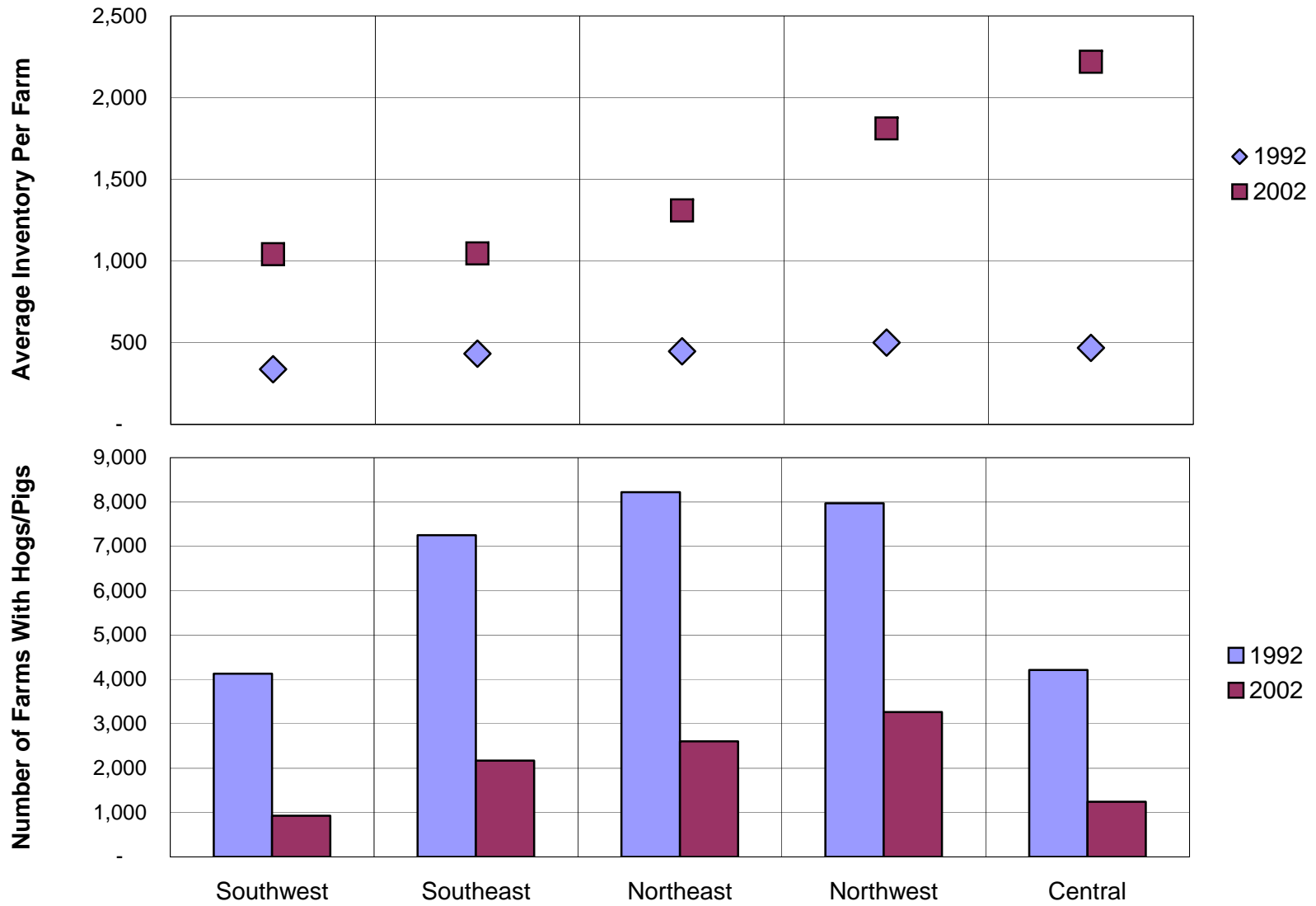
## Average Beef Cow Inventory Per Farm and Number of Farms With Beef Cows



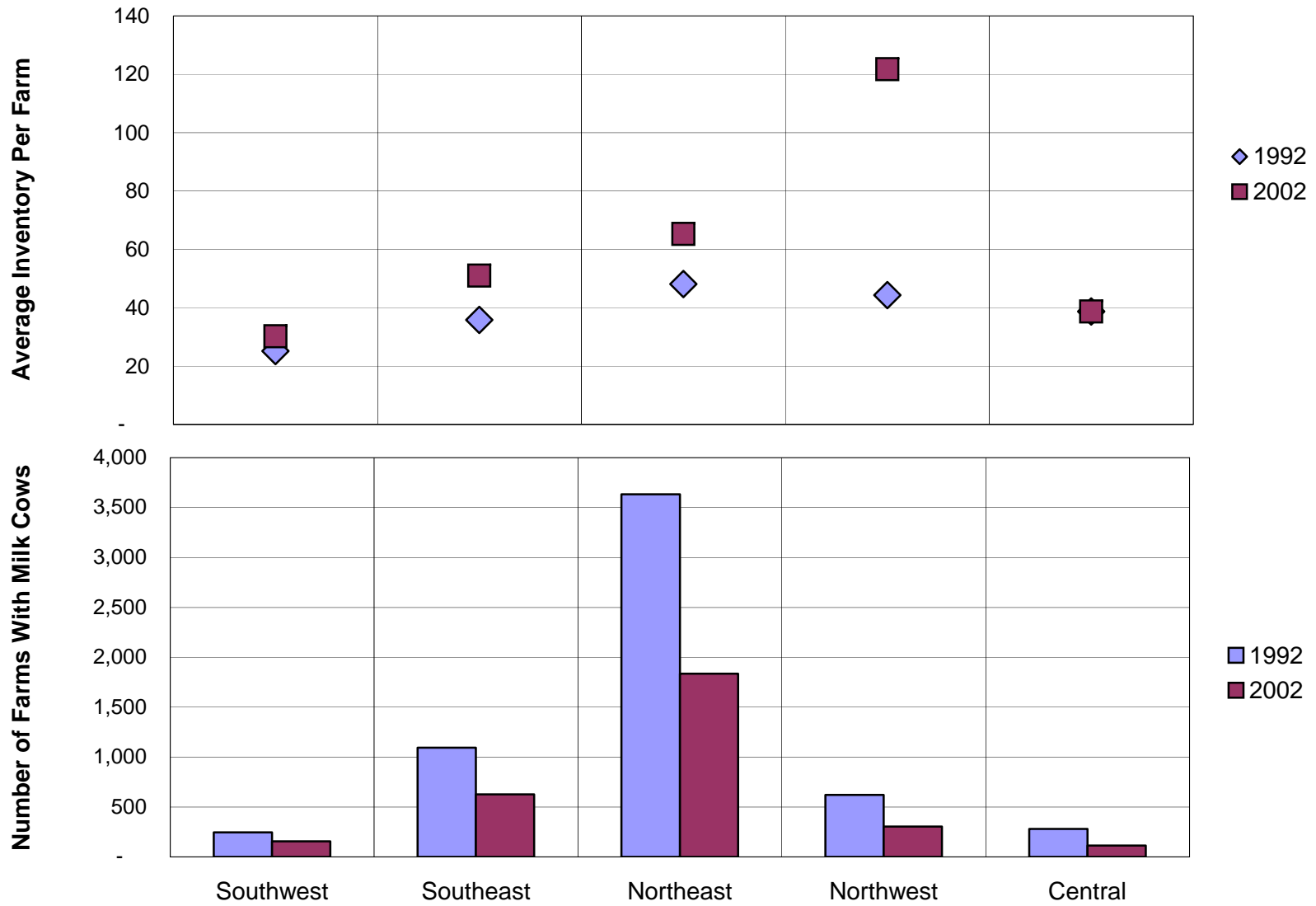
### Average Fed Cattle Sold Per Farm and Number of Farms With Sales of Fed Cattle



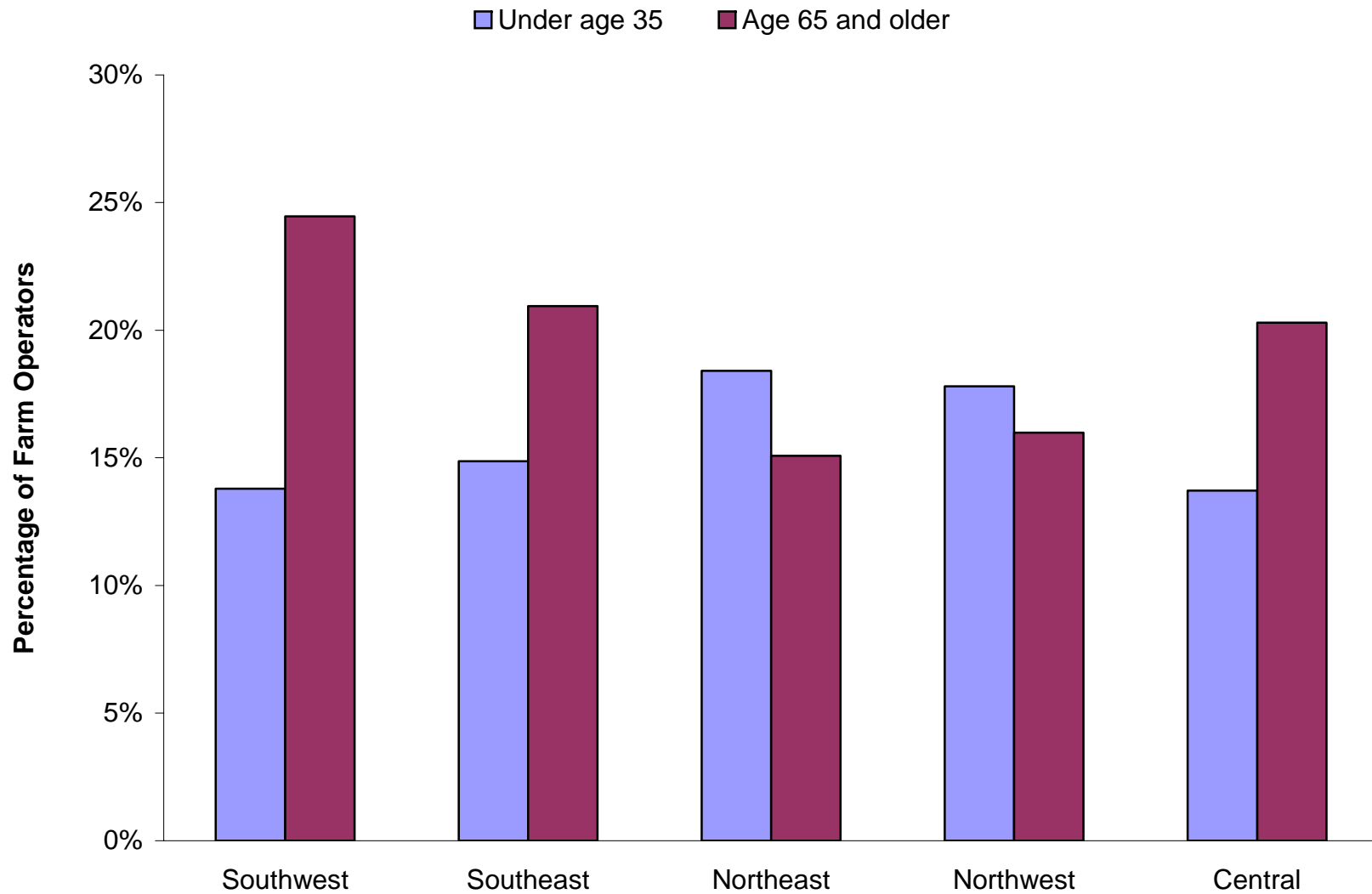
### Average Hog/Pig Inventory Per Farm and Number of Farms With Hogs/Pigs



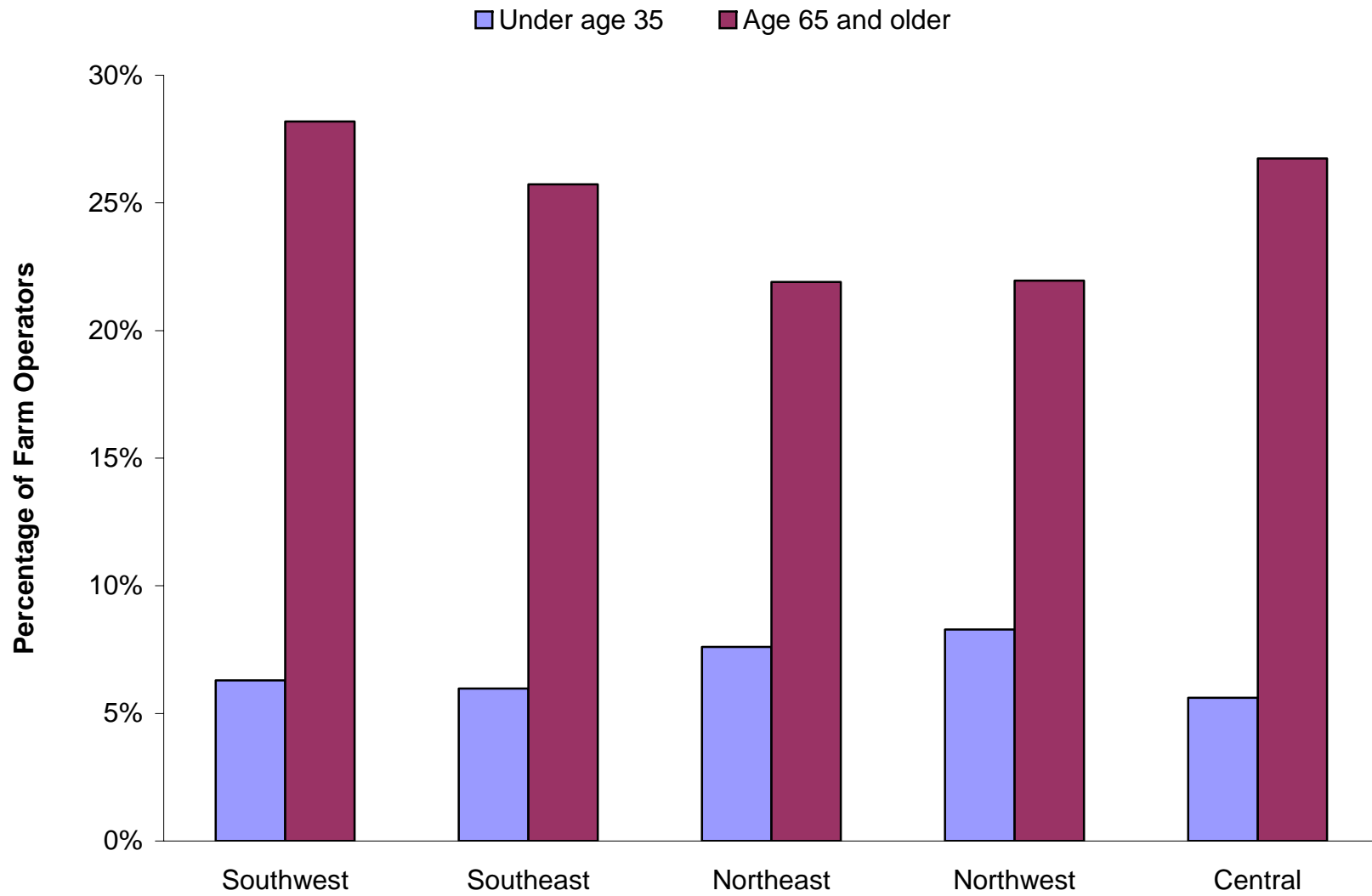
## Average Milk Cow Inventory Per Farm and Number of Farms With Milk Cows



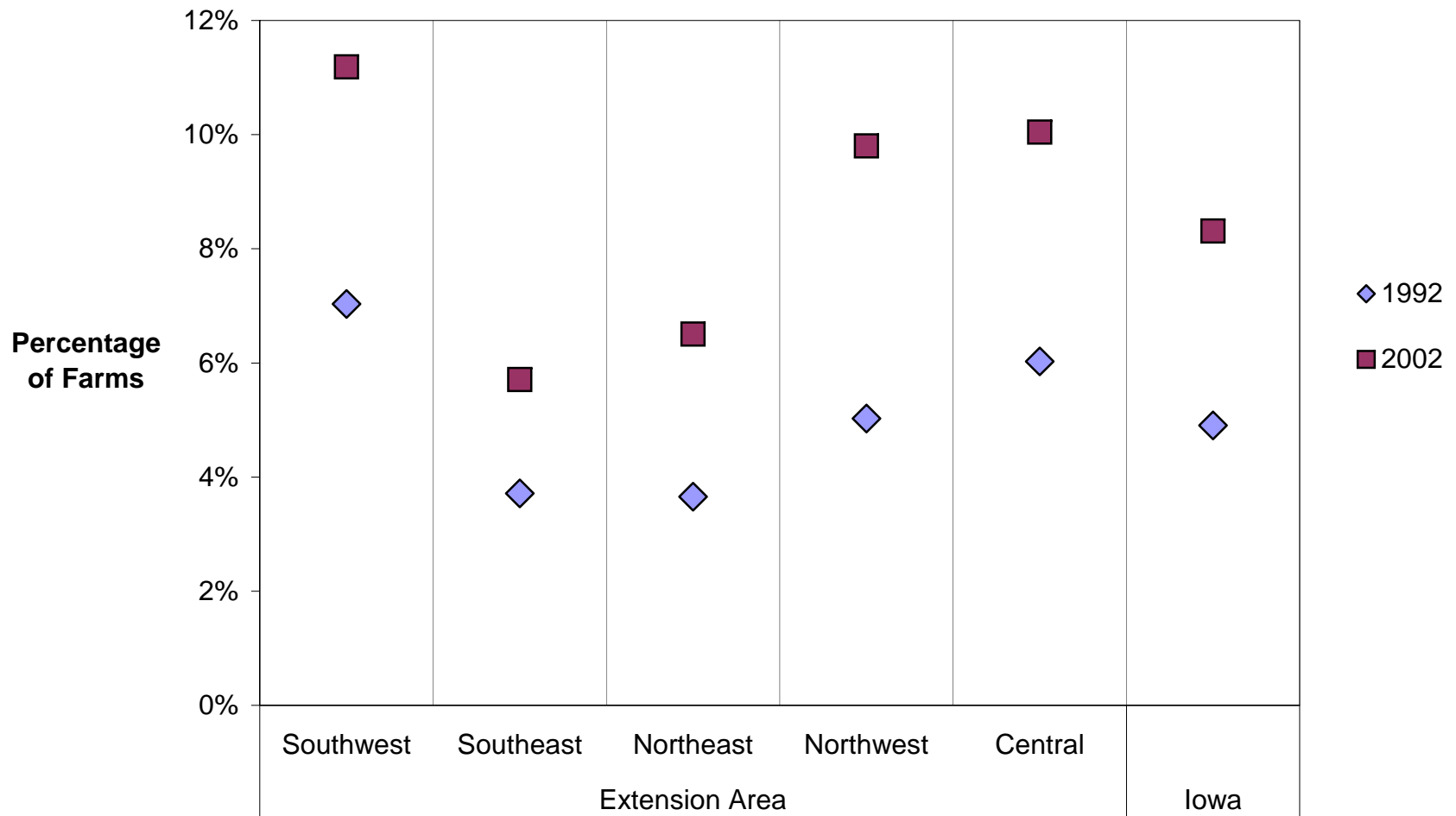
## Percentage of Farms by Age of Operator, 1992



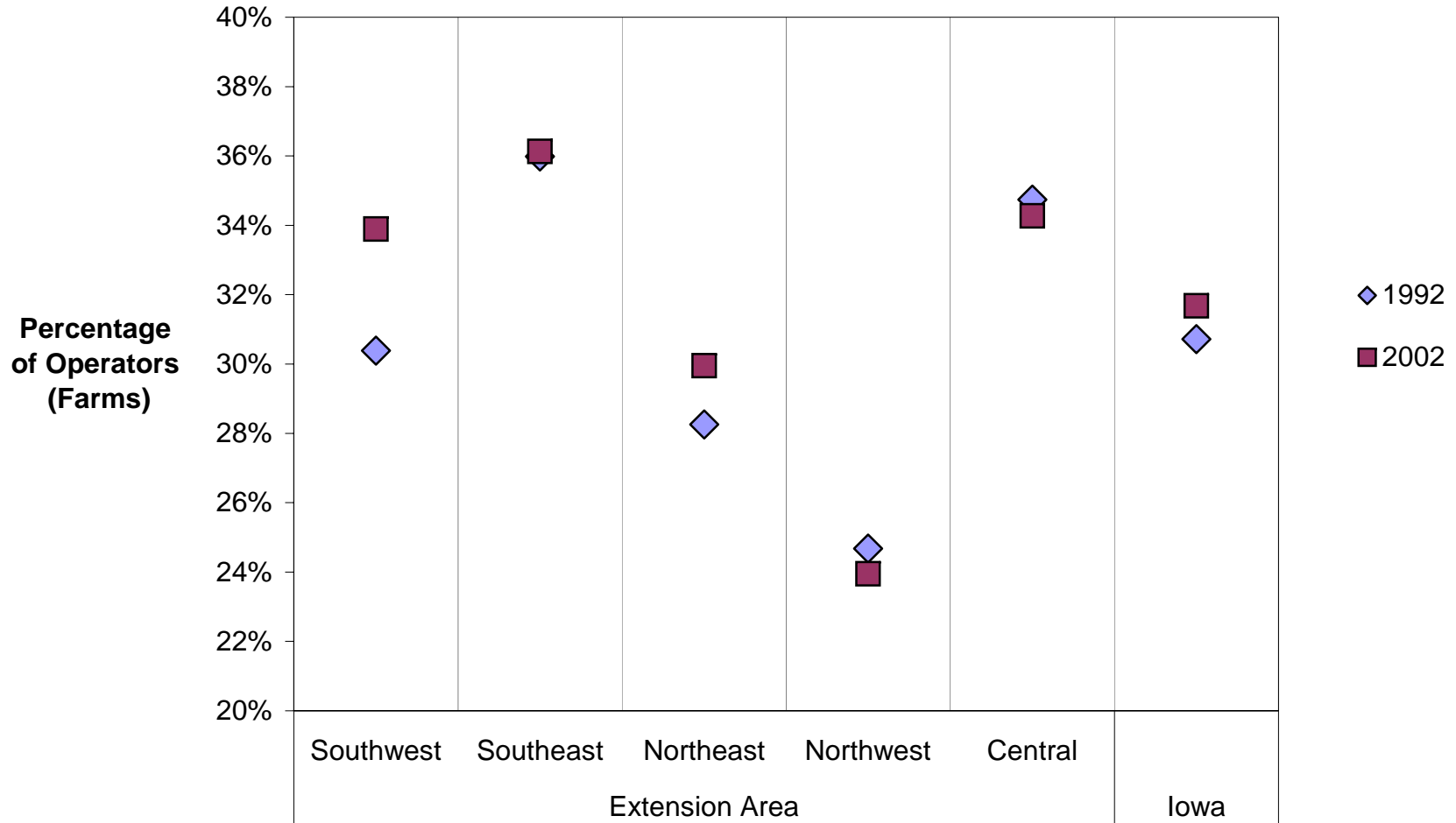
## Percentage of Farms by Age of Operator, 2002



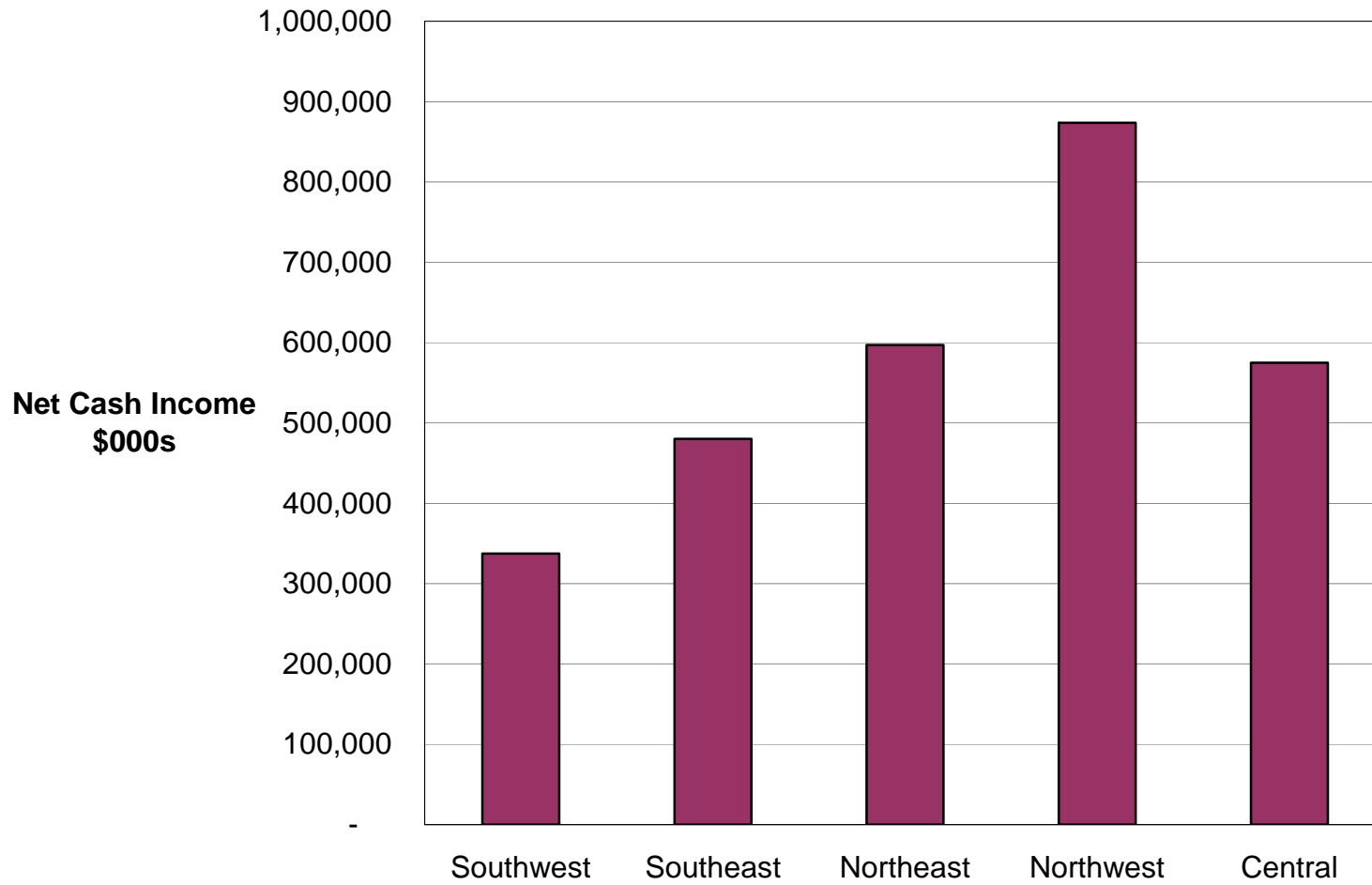
## Percentage of Farms With 1,000 Acres or More



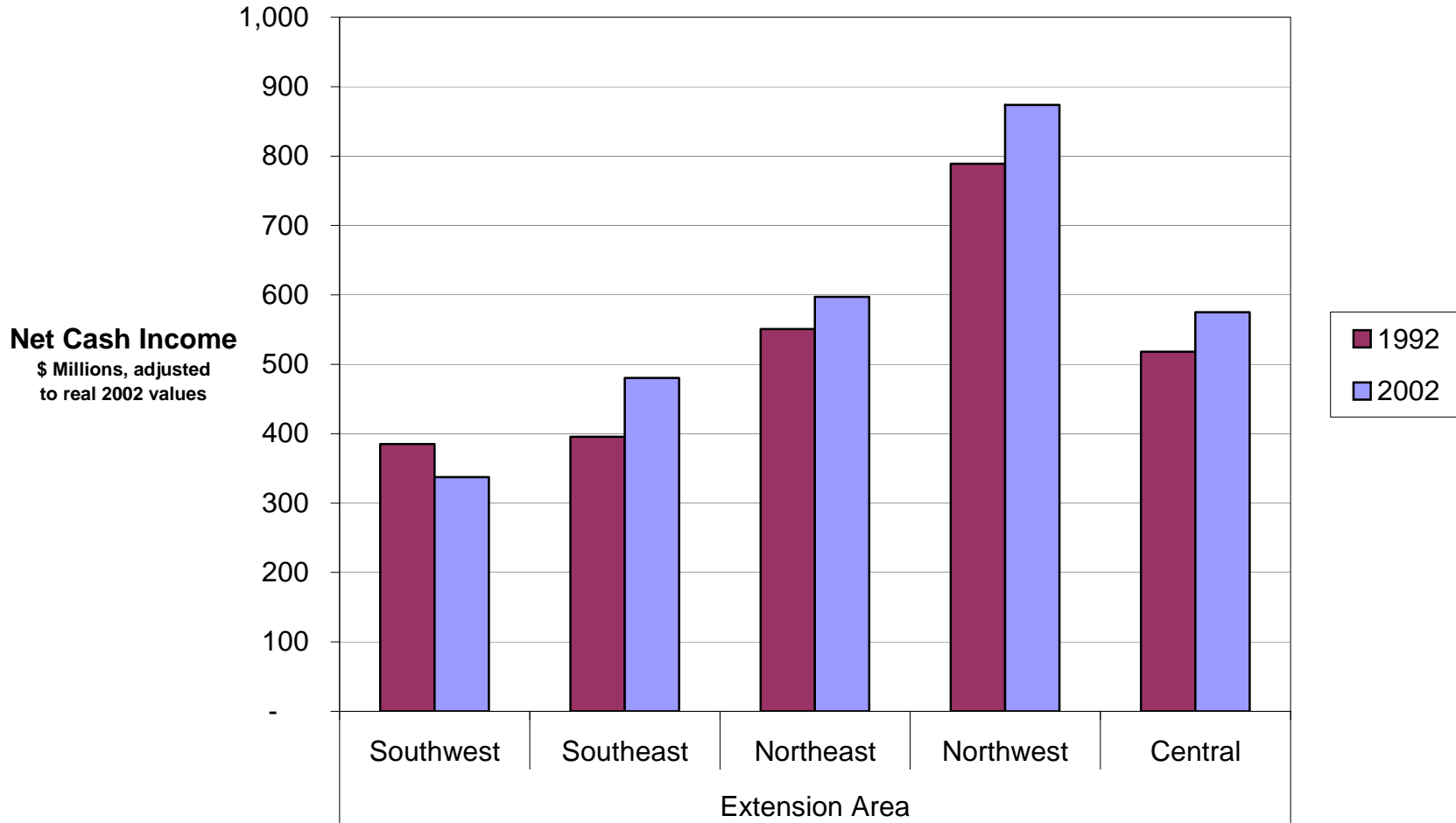
## Percentage of Farms With Operators Reporting a Principal Occupation Other Than Farming



## 2002 Net Cash Farm Income From Operations



## 1992 and 2002 Net Cash Farm Income From Operations



## 1992 and 2002 Per Farm Net Cash Income From Operations

